

# Grassland Reserve Program

## 2005 Ranking Criteria- West Virginia

### (Current Conditions)

Rental Agreement 10 yrs ☐ 15 yrs ☐ 20 yrs ☐ 30 yrs ☐

30 yr. Easement ☐ Permanent Easement ☐

Number of acres \_\_\_\_\_

Acres of Native cover \_\_\_\_\_

Acres that need restoration \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm# \_\_\_\_\_ Tract# \_\_\_\_\_

Ranking Team: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Biodiversity of Plants and Animals.	Total Pts. Allowed	Total Pts.
a. The offer acres are in a WV-DNR bird habitat priority area.	30	
b. The offer area will be managed for the length of the agreement as: Managed Intensive Grazing System (MIG)/Permanent Hayland Rotation system Continuous system	10 5 2	
c. The offer area contains 3 or more major vegetative species (15% or more).	10	
d. The offer area contains small shrub and/or wetland areas. (2 to 10%) (non-invasive species)	10	
e. There is threatened or endangered plant species habitat included in the offer area. (Use State List)	30	
f. The landowner/operator agrees to manage the offer area to address resources concerns for water quality.	30	
2. Risk of conversion.	Total Pts. Allowed	Total Pts.
a. The offer area includes 25% or more prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance. (Use Field Office Tech. Guide)	20	
b. The offer area is adjacent to other protected acres. (WRP,CRP, CREP, FRPP, etc and public lands, State and Federal Areas)	10	
c. The land is currently in grassland; however it is in a conservation cropping rotation in the current conservation plan or has FSA cropping history in the last five years.	20	
d. The grassland is protected from conversion to invasive species, by the Management System. (multiflora rose, autumn olive, tartarian honeysuckle, spotted knapweed)		
Continuous Grazing	0	
Rotational Grazing	10	
Permanent Hayland/MIG	20	
e. Length of rental/easement commitment.		
10 years	10	
15 years	15	
20 years	20	
30 years	30	
Permanent	50	

f. Does the offer area have a high risk for conversion to rural home sites?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	10 0	
g. Is the offer area adjacent to an urbanized area? (Urbanized example: public utilities, subdivisions and or commercial developments).  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	10 0	
<b>3. Support of Grazing Agriculture.</b>	<b>Total Pts. Allowed</b>	<b>Total Pts.</b>
a. The offer area is currently a viable livestock operation. (Viable: forage is being used for the maintenance or production of livestock)	50	
b. Acreage of offer area.   <div style="text-align: right;">           20 to 40            40 to 75            75 to 150            150 to 250            &gt; 250         </div>	<div style="text-align: right;">           5 10 15 20 25         </div>	
c. What percent of the offer area is grassland?  <div style="text-align: right;">           &gt;95%            90-95%            &lt; 90%         </div>	<div style="text-align: right;">           50 30 20         </div>	
<b>4. Cost Effectiveness.</b>	<b>Total Pts. Allowed</b>	<b>Total Pts.</b>
<b>(Cost of Easement) (Market Value)</b> <u>Use with easement applications only</u>  <div style="text-align: right;">           0-\$3000            &gt;\$3000         </div>	<div style="text-align: right;">           100 60         </div>	
<b>(Cost of Rental Agreement)</b> <u>Use with rental applications only</u>  <div style="text-align: right;">           =&lt;\$9.00/acre            &gt;\$9.00/acre         </div>	<div style="text-align: right;">           100 60         </div>	
<b>Subtotal</b>		

Use A or B below

**A.** The offered area **does not require** restoration to achieve program objectives. (Meets 528 Standard for Grazing Land/Hayland)

☐ check

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ x 5 = Ranking \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** The offered area **requires** restoration to achieve program objectives.

☐ check

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ x 1 = Ranking \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Ranker \_\_\_\_\_ Ranking \_\_\_\_\_  
(District Conservationist)

Signature of Ranker \_\_\_\_\_ Ranking \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ranking Team Member)

Signature of Ranker \_\_\_\_\_ Ranking \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ranking Team Member)

Signature of Ranker \_\_\_\_\_ Ranking \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ranking Team Member)

Signature of Ranker \_\_\_\_\_ Ranking \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ranking Team Member)

Rental Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ rate/acre x \_\_\_\_\_ acres x \_\_\_\_\_ Year = \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated easement cost: \_\_\_\_\_ cost/acre x \_\_\_\_\_ acres = \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be accepted on offer areas greater than 20 acres. Waivers are included in West Virginia policy due to the predominance of forestland and many operators having less than 40 acres of contiguous grassland. These small areas provide for landscape aesthetics as well as biodiversity. This policy will also provide program opportunities for Limited Resource Producers.

The State Conservationist will consider size waivers for offer areas of 20 to 40 acres for the following:

- A. The offer area currently is being managed to the RMS level for forage management.
- B. The offer area is 100% of the grassland on the tract.
- C. The owner/operator agrees to manage the offer area to the RMS level for all concerns.
- D. The ranking for the offer area qualifies the application for funding.